
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013/14 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Juneau. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers in Southeast Alaska during the 2013/14 season:

The 2013/14 Southeast Alaska commercial sea cucumber dive fishery will open at 8:00 a.m., Monday, October 7, 2013, and subsequent openings will be announced on a weekly basis until individual area's guideline harvest levels have been reached or until March 31, 2014, whichever is earlier. A total of 1,472,600 pounds of sea cucumbers will be available for harvest this season.

Divers are reminded that during the week of Thanksgiving, the weekly schedule will change to a Sunday/Monday opening. During Thanksgiving week, the only scheduled open period will be Sunday, November 24, and Monday, November 25, 2013.

The following area will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2013:

District 1:

Tongass Narrows – Subdistrict 101-47: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 61,500 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of the west channel north of a line from a point located on the southeastern shore of Gravina Island at 55°17.65' N. latitude, 131°37.03' W. longitude, to a point on the southwest shore of Tongass Channel at 55°18.63' N. latitude, 131°35.20' W. longitude, and south of a line from a point on Gravina Island just south of East Clump Light located at 55°20.61' N. latitude, 131°41.30' W. longitude, to the northernmost tip of Pennock Island located at 55°20.28' N. latitude, 131°39.54' W. longitude, and south of a line from Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N. latitude, 131°49.93' W. longitude, to the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.60' N. latitude, 131°51.00' W. longitude, and north of a line from a point on Gravina Island north of the airport at 55°21.49' N. latitude, 131°42.81' W. longitude, to a point on Revillagigedo Island at 55°21.61' N. latitude, 131°42.23' W. longitude, with the following restrictions:

Ward Cove: all waters of Ward Cove east of a line from a point at 55°24.28' N. latitude, 131°45.00' W. longitude, to a point at 55°23.26' N. latitude, 131°44.32' W. longitude, are closed;

East Channel: all waters of East Channel will be closed north of 55°18.36' N. latitude.

The following areas will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon), Tuesday, October 8, 2013:

District 1:

Willard and Fillmore Inlets – Subdistrict 101-11-002: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 71,100 pounds of sea cucumbers, in those waters of Willard Inlet and Fillmore Inlet north of the latitude of Male Point (located at the southwestern most tip of Fillmore Island), with the following restriction:

Edward Passage: those waters of Edward Passage south of a line from a point at 54°51.99' N. latitude, 130°31.78' W. longitude, to a point at 54°52.09' N. latitude, 130°31.65' W. longitude, are closed.

Revillagigedo Channel and Southern Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 101-21: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 61,500 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Clarence Strait and Revillagigedo Channel south of the latitude of Point White located on the northwestern part of Duke Island at 54°56.00' N. latitude, 131°29.70' W. longitude, and south and west of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.08' N. latitude, 131°11.61' W. longitude, to a point three nautical miles off Foggy Bay Light that intersects a line between Duke Point and Foggy Bay Light and then south to intersect a line between Barren Island Light and Lord Rock Light, then to Lord Rock Light, and then to the southern boundary of District 1. Note: Bee Rocks (Subdistrict 101-22) are not included in this area.

Revillagigedo Channel and Felice Strait – Subdistrict 101-23: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 157,400 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel west of a line from Quadra Point located at 55°05.17' N. latitude, 130°59.05' W. longitude, to Kah Shakes Point located at 55°04.22' N. latitude, 130°58.72' W. longitude, and south of a line from Mary Island Light to the northern point of Black Island at 55°08.00' N. latitude, 131°04.80' W. longitude, then due east to the mainland shore, and south of a line on the northwestern side of Mary Island at 55°05.95' N. latitude, 131°13.00' W. longitude, to a point on the eastern shore of Annette Island at 55°06.78' N. latitude, 131°21.50' W. longitude, and north of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.08' N. latitude, 131°11.62' W. longitude, to Foggy Point Light, and east of 131°26.60' W. longitude located on the northwest side of Duke Island.

George Inlet, Bold Island, and Carroll Inlet – Subdistricts 101-40, 44, 45, 46, and 48: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 123,800 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel north and west of a line from a point on the southwest entrance of Moth Bay at 55°05.70' N. latitude, 131°20.47' W. longitude, to Harbor Point on the eastern shore of Annette Island, and south of the latitude of the southernmost tip of California Head located between the entrance of George and Carroll Inlets, and south of a line from a point located on the southeastern shore of Gravina Island at 55°17.65' N. latitude, 131°37.03' W. longitude, to a point on the southwest shore of Tongass Channel at 55°18.63' N. latitude, 131°35.20' W. longitude, and east of a line from the southernmost tip of Gravina Point located on the southeast shore of Gravina Island to the northernmost tip of Walden Point located on the northeast tip of Annette Island. This area also includes all waters of Carroll Inlet and George Inlet.

East Behm Canal and Smeaton Bay – Subdistricts 101-51 and 55: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 53,200 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of East Behm Canal, Smeaton Bay, Wilson Arm, and Bakewell Arm north of the northernmost tip of Point Nelson (located at 55°18.05' N. latitude), and south of a line from Cactus Point to Point Louise.

Rudyerd Bay, East Behm Canal, and Walker Cove – Subdistricts 101-60, 71, and 73: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 26,600 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Rudyerd Bay, East Behm Canal, and Walker Cove north of a line from Cactus Point to Point Louise and south of a line from a point at 55°48.35' N. latitude, 131°00.10' W. longitude, to a point at 55°47.90' N. latitude, 131°02.75' W. longitude.

North Behm Canal - Subdistrict 101-80: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 56,200 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters north of a line from the northernmost tip of Snail Point to the southernmost tip of Nose Point and west of 131°22.07' W. longitude.

District 2:

Clarence Strait and Dixon Entrance - Subdistricts 102-10: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 23,800 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters south of 54°54.27' N. latitude, and east of a line from Point Marsh Light to a point at 54°40.00' N. latitude, 132°17.50' W. longitude.

Cholmondeley Sound - Subdistrict 102-40: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 187,100 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Cholmondeley Sound south and west of a line from a point at 55°15.23' N. latitude, 132°06.82' W. longitude, located at the northwestern mouth of Cholmondeley Sound to a point at 55°14.73' N. latitude, 132°04.50' W. longitude, located 2.6 nautical miles southwest of Chasina Point.

Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 102-50: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 63,600 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters adjacent to the eastern shore of Prince of Wales Island south of a line from a point on the northeast side of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°28.40' N. latitude, 132°08.75' W. longitude, located inside of Street Island to Caamano Point located at 55°29.83' N. latitude, 131°58.13' W. longitude, and north of 55°08.25' N. latitude, and east of a line from a point on the southwest side of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°27.93' N. latitude, 132°11.92' W. longitude, to a point near Skowl Point at 55°25.00' N. latitude, 132°15.50' W. longitude, and north and east of a line from a point at 55°15.23' N. latitude, 132°06.82' W. longitude, located at the northwestern mouth of Cholmondeley Sound to a point at 55°14.73' N. latitude, 132°04.50' W. longitude, located 2.6 nautical miles southwest of Chasina Point in the entrance to Cholmondeley Sound.

District 3:

Bucareli Bay and Port Real Marina - Subdistrict 103-50: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 17,400 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Bucareli Bay and Port Real Marina south of a line from a point on the northeast side of Lulu Island at 55°30.62' N. latitude, 133°28.08' W. longitude, to a point on the northwest side of San Fernando Island at 55°31.53' N. latitude, 133°26.82' W. longitude, and west of a line from Point Cuerbo located on the southeast side of San Fernando Island to Point Eugenia located on the north side of San Juan Bautista Island to Point Miliflores located on the south side of San Juan Bautista Island, to Tranquil Point, and those waters of Port Real Marina, Bucareli Bay, and Meares Passage south and east of a line from the westernmost tip of Point Saint Isidor to a point on Noyes Island at 55°27.27' N. latitude, 133°38.38' W. longitude, to a point on the northwest side of Baker Island at 55°25.15' N. latitude, 133°36.65' W. longitude, to Point San Roque located on the southeast side of Baker Island to Point Arboleda located on the northwest side of Suemez Island at 55°19.12' N. latitude, 133°27.67' W. longitude, to a point on the southwest point of Suemez Island at 55°14.62' N. latitude, 133°14.37' W. longitude, to Eagle Point located on the northwest side of Dall Island and north of a line through Tlevak Narrows beginning at the easternmost tip of Turn Point located at 55°15.78' N. latitude, 133°07.23' W. longitude, to a point on Prince of Wales Island at 55°15.75' N. latitude, 133°06.43' W. longitude, with the following restriction:

Bucareli Bay and Ursua Channel: will be closed north and east of a line from the southernmost tip of Point Amargura to the southernmost tip of Joe Island.

District 6:

Clarence Strait - Subdistricts 106-10, 20, 22, and 25: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 183,800 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters south and east of a line from Luck Point to Point Stanhope to a

point on Etolin Island at 56°03.48' N. latitude, 132°37.43' W. longitude, and north and west of a line from Narrow Point to Ernest Point to a point on Etolin Island at 55°54.80' N. latitude, 132°21.00' W. longitude.

District 9:

Eastern Baranof Island - Subdistrict 109-20: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 48,000 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of eastern Baranof Island in Section 9-A, north of the latitude of Patterson Point.

Patterson Bay: all waters of Patterson Bay are closed.

Keku Islands - Subdistricts 109-41 and 42: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 17,900 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters south of a line from the northernmost tip of Cornwallis Point at 56°56.18' N. latitude, 134°16.30' W. longitude, to a point in Keku Strait at 56°58.95' N. latitude, 134°08.91' W. longitude, to the westernmost tip of Hamilton Island at 56°56.44' N. latitude, 133°55.69' W. longitude, and north of a line from the northwestern most point of Port Camden on Kuiu Island at 56°48.30' N. latitude, 133°56.73' W. longitude, to Point Camden at 56°48.56' N. latitude, 133°53.13' W. longitude, to the Salt Point light on Kupreanof Island at 56°50.69' N. latitude, 133°52.02' W. longitude. All waters of Hamilton Bay and Dakaneek Bay are open.

District 11:

Southern Lynn Canal, East Mansfield Peninsula, and Auke Bay – Subdistrict 111-50: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 34,300 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 11-A south of the latitude of Little Island Light, east of a line from Little Island Light to Point Retreat, north of a line from a point on Admiralty Island at 58°16.54' N. latitude, 134°45.36' W. longitude, to Outer Point on Douglas Island at 58°17.88' N. latitude, 134°41.11' W. longitude, and west of a line from the southernmost tip of the Mendenhall Peninsula at 58°20.38' N. latitude, 134°37.87' W. longitude, to Entrance Point.

District 12:

Chatham Strait, Wilson Cove, Whitewater Bay, and Chaik Bay - Subdistricts 112-18, 19, 80, and 90: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 11,000 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters within one nautical mile of the Admiralty Island shoreline north of Point Gardner and south of Distant Point, with the following restriction:

Hood Bay – Subdistricts 112-71, 72, 73: will be closed.

Freshwater Bay and Chatham Strait - Subdistricts 112-12, 13, and 50: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 119,500 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 12-A within two nautical miles of the Chichagof Island shoreline south of 57°58.60' N. latitude and north of the latitude of Morris Reef Light with the following restriction:

Tenakee Inlet: will be closed west of a line from East Point to South Passage Point.

Howard Bay and Couverden Island area – portions of Subdistricts 112-15 and 61 and 114-25: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 28,000 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters south of 58°19.00' N. latitude, east of 135°10.00' W. longitude, north of the latitude of Rocky Island light, and west of 135°01.00' W. longitude.

District 13:

Sitka Sound, Krestof Sound, and Nakwasina Sound - Subdistricts 113-40, 42, and 43: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 65,700 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 13-B north and west

of a line from Dog Point to Bieli Rocks to Shoals Point and south of 57°16.00' N. latitude, including all waters of Nakwasina Sound, Nakwasina Passage, Krestof Sound, and Olga Strait, except that all waters of Neva Strait are closed north of a line from Neva Point to Partof Point, and all waters of the Signaka Islands are open.

Hoonah Sound - Subdistricts 113-55, 56, 57, and 58: will be open for a guideline harvest level of 61,200 pounds of sea cucumbers in those waters of Section 13-C north and west of a line from Nismeni Point to Broad Island Light to a point on the Chichagof Island shoreline at 57°35.88' N. latitude, 135°23.05' W. longitude.

Regulatory Summary

The operation of dive fishing gear 14 days prior to a commercial fishery and 14 days after participating in a commercial opening and between weekly open periods for miscellaneous shellfish is prohibited. A person who uses dive gear to fish in a commercial red sea urchin fishery, commercial geoduck fishery, or mariculture site, may fish in the sea cucumber fishery within the 14-day period (5 AAC 38.147).

Each diver participating in the sea cucumber fishery must have a current Southeast Alaska sea cucumber Limited Entry Permit, which can be obtained from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). All vessels involved in the sea cucumber fishery need to have a current CFEC vessel license and be registered with the department. Vessel registrations can be obtained at any ADF&G office. All crew members are required to have a valid Commercial Crewmembers License, or a limited entry card from another fishery.

In order to provide a refuge for sea cucumbers in deeper waters, use of mixed gases or saturation diving is prohibited. Nitrox gas can be used for diving providing the oxygen concentration is less than 40%. Sea cucumbers may be hand-picked only and any means other than individually collecting sea cucumbers by hand and placing them in bags is prohibited. Sea cucumbers may be harvested by diving with the aid of: (1) SCUBA; (2) tethered, umbilical surface supplied systems; or (3) diving with a snorkel only.

No more than three divers licensed to fish sea cucumbers may be on board a vessel registered to fish sea cucumbers from 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after a fishing period or at any time commercially harvested sea cucumbers are on board. Only two licensed divers can make landings from any registered sea cucumber vessel during any fishing period.

No permit holder may land or have on board more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during any fishing period established by the department, and only one species of miscellaneous shellfish is permitted on board a vessel at one time. Only vessels registered as tenders may possess more than 2,000 pounds of eviscerated sea cucumbers during an established fishing period.

Commercial sea cucumber fishermen are also advised that all landings to processors, catcher/processors, or tenders must be recorded on fish tickets with the number of minutes of dive time included. A permit holder who is operating their vessel as a tender for sea cucumbers must complete fish tickets as required by 5 AAC 39.130. A fish ticket must be made out for every landing and all fish tickets must be submitted to ADF&G within seven days of landing.

Area Closures

Lower Cordova Bay (Subdistricts 103-11 and 15) was open for harvest during the previous fishery rotation three years ago, but will not open this season. In this area, the density and overall biomass of sea cucumbers has declined to a very low level since 2001, with an especially rapid decline after 2007. Therefore, this area will remain closed during the 2013/14 fishing season to protect broodstock and maximize reproductive potential. Observations of sea otters and evidence of sea otter predation on other species were documented during dive surveys in this area.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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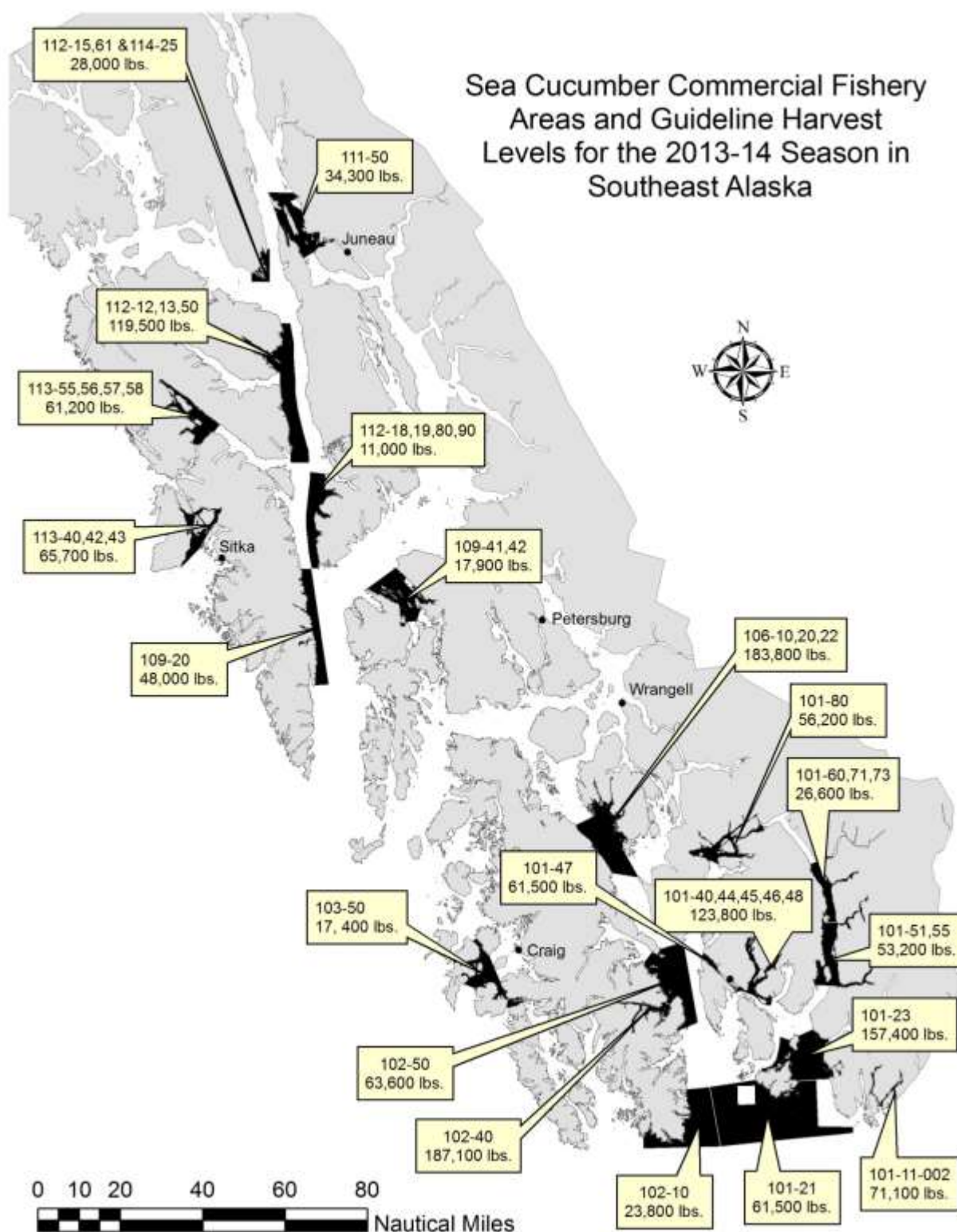


Figure 1. Commercial sea cucumber open harvest areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2013-14 season.

Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed description of open areas.



Figure 2. Commercial sea cucumber open harvest area for Tongass Narrows Subdistrict 101-47.

Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed description of open areas.